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17 DEC 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: Robert M. Gates
Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT: STAP Request

REFERENCE: Your Memorandum Dated 9 December 1982

1. Action: None. This is in response to your memorandum of 9 December 1982 relating to the STAP's request for information. [Redacted]

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2. Background related to paragraph 1 of reference: We have begun drafting a piece which will list the Soviet weapon systems being developed and estimates of when we expect them to reach IOC. We will also list the prime design bureaus and research organizations associated with these systems. In addition, we will discuss the role of the several hundred other design bureaus, research centers and the Academy of Sciences in military R&D. We expect to complete the task in about two weeks. [Redacted]

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3. In accordance with your instructions of last June to broaden our knowledge of the Soviet military-industrial complex, we have made a major resource commitment to expand our data base on Soviet military R&D and production facilities and Soviet weapon systems. When completed, we expect to have considerably more facilities identified than we have now. [Redacted]

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4. Background related to paragraph 2 of reference: The large number of Soviet petitions at the UN for positioning and orbit, discussed by STAP, refer to radio frequency usage by satellites in geostationary orbit, and the positions in orbit to and from which these frequencies are broadcast. These positions are by convention two degrees apart and may be occupied by more than one satellite. The purpose of the UN regulating frequency usage by satellites in geosynchronous orbit is to prevent interference between transmissions to and from different satellites. [Redacted]

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5. The Soviets have not in the past deployed satellites in all of the positions for which they have filed. The number of petitions, therefore, is greater than the number of satellites that will actually be put into orbit. There is concern, however, that in the future orbit crowding problems will effect all uses of satellites in geostationary orbit. NORAD is recognized by the UN as the international space object accounting expert and keeps track of all objects in orbit at geosynchronous altitudes and below.

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Robert M. Gates

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